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- Murton, Christopher David
Chelmsford, Essex CM2 8AR (GB)
- Goodman, David Michael
St Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 9XA (GB)
- Ramsden, Christopher Thomas William
Hertford, Hertfordshire SG14 3ES (GB)
- Shields, James
Whitehead, Carrickfergus BT38 9NS (IE)

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(71) Applicant: Nortel Networks Limited
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 3Y4 (CA)

(74) Representative: Bewley, Ewan Stuart
Nortel Networks Intellectual Property Law Group
London Road
Harlow, Essex CM17 9NA (GB)

(72) Inventors:
• Russell, John Paul
Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire CM21 9BB (GB)

(54) **Frame based data over synchronous digital hierarchy network**

(57) A frame based data communications network is interfaced to a synchronous digital hierarchy network via a plurality of frame based data port cards incorporated into a plurality of synchronous multiplexers. Each port card comprises a conventional frame based data port, a frame switch, a rate adapter means and a mapping means for mapping data frames into a plurality of SDH virtual containers. Frame based data is incorporated directly into a synchronous virtual container without encapsulation in an intermediate protocol. A number of topologies of a frame based data channel network are possible, overlaid on the underlying synchronous transport network, including an open loop topology, a ring mode topology, and a backhaul topology.

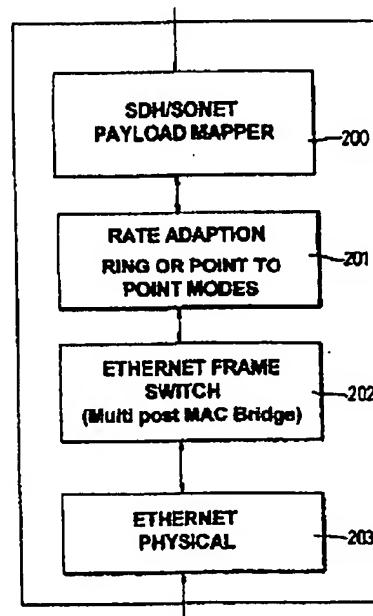


Fig. 2

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 30 4876

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 6 December 2001	Examiner Fouasson, O
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Application Number
EP 99 30 4876

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<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document</p> <p>T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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